

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS BRUSSELS 07278

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH,MARR,US,BE

SUBJECT: DOD SCHOOL

1. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT GAVE US REPLY JULY 20 TO OUR QUESTION ON WHETHER IT WOULD PERMIT CHILDREN OF AMERICANS WITH NO OFFICIAL STATUS TO ATTEND DOD SCHOOL IN ORDER TO UTILIZE PRESENTLY UNUSED CAPACITY.

2. WHILE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO POLICY OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSAL,IT DID NOTE THAT STATUS OF BOTH THE SCHOOL AND OF U.S. SCHOOL PERSONNEL WOULD BE AFFECTED. IF CHILDREN OF NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS ARE ADMITTED,SCHOOL COULD NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED OFFICIAL DOD INSTALLATION,BENEFITTING FROM THAT STATUS,FOR ITSELF AND ITS PERSONNEL. DOD SCHOOL WOULD THUS BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS THE LOCAL PRIVATE BRITISH, GERMAN AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS THE SCHOOL AND ITS PERSONNEL WOULD LOSE THEIR PRESENT CUSTOMS AND VALUE ADDED TAX EXEMPTIONS, WHICH ARE GRANTED ON THE BASIS OF THE SCHOOL'S PRESENT STATUS AS A MILITARY INSTALLATION.

3. THE BELGIANS HAVE BEEN STUDYING OUR REQUEST IN DEPTH SINCE APRIL. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THREE SECTIONS OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY HAVE ALL BEEN INVOLVED AND ALL HAVE DRAWN THE SAME CONCLUSIONS PRESENTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE A DETAILED IN-HOUSE STUDY IS IN THE FINAL STAGES. WHILE THAT STUDY IS NOT ADDRESSED TO US, A BOOTLEG COPY HAS BEEN PROMISED US WITHIN THE NEXT TWO
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WEEKS. WE WILL FORWARD IT UPON RECEIPT. ITS SUBSTANCE MAY BE USED

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